(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) India is relatively unexplored as far as adventure tourism is concerned.

(b) Such classification of tourists presently does not exist.

(c) A Convention of Indian Association of Tour Operators was held at Shivpuri on 7-9th October, 98.

(d) The suggestions made by the participants of the above Adventure Conference were as follows:

(1) The Garhwal Himalayas to be declare as Eco Friendly zone.

(2) River Rafting in and around Shivpuri to be given more importance and developed.

(3) Adventure tourism needs to be given more importance by the Govt. in their brochures and by their overseas tourists Offices.

(4) Offbeat Adventure tourism must be published like ballooning para gliding, bungee jumping etc.

(e) The Government is in consonance with the recommendations of the Conference.

New Tourism Policy

462. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new Tourism Policy;

(b) if so, the key features of the proposed Tourism Policy; and

(c) how long will it take for the new Policy to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Some of the salient features of the proposed Policy are: sustained economic development through tourism, diversification of tourism product and removal of regional imbalances, creating awareness, promotion of Eco-Tourism and Preservation of Natural Environment and Heritage, facilitating the development of dynamic private sector, promotion of domestic and international tourism, integrated development of important tourist destinations with the involvement of the Infrastructural departments of Central Government, State Governments and Private Sector, development of tourism in the North East, Himalayan Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep etc.

(c) the Action Plan derived from the proposed Policy has short term, and long term framework for implementation.

पर्यटन नीति

464. **श्री गोविन्दराम गिरी:** क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारतीय पर्यटन उद्योग की अवसंरचना को ध्यान में रखते हुए इसके विकास के संबंध में सरकार की कोई निर्धारित नीति है;

(ख) क्या आज भी देश में अन्य उद्योगों की तुलना में पर्यटन उद्योग सर्वाधिक उपेक्षित है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने समय-समय पर पर्यटन के विकास और समस्याओं का अवलोकन किया है;

(घ) क्या भारत को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर पर्यटन उद्योग का दर्जा प्राप्त करने में संघर्ष करना पड़ा है; और

(ङ) शताब्दी के अंत तक भारतीय उद्योगों के संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

पर्यटन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ओमका अपांग): (क) जी, हां। सरकार की, निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी के साथ पर्यटन के विकास हेतु एक निश्चित नीति है।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) जी, हां।

(घ) हाल ही में हुई पर्यटन, वाणिज्यि तथा वित्त मंत्रियों की एक बैठक में, वार्षिक 6 करोड़ और अधिक रुपयों की विदेशी मुद्रा आय करने वाले पर्यटन संगठनों को निर्यात हाउस का दर्जा देने का निर्णय लिया गया है।

(ङ) पर्यटन पहले ही उद्योग के एक महत्वपूर्ण भाग के रूप में उभरा है और शताब्दी के अंत तक, अर्थ व्यवस्था में इसका योगदान बढ़ने की संभावना है।

Export House Status to Tourism

465. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accorded export house status to tourism; and

(b) if so, what are the details of benefits which will accrue to tourism industry as a result of this status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As notified by Ministry of Commerce vide Notification No. 33 (RE-98) 1997—2002 dated 26.11.98, Hostels, Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators shall be entitled for recognition as an export house/trading house/star trading house/super star trading house. They shall be entitled to such benefits as specified in Chapter 12 of the Handbook of Procedures (Volume-I). However, the entitlement of SIL under chapter 12 shall be calculated on the basis of payments received in free foreign exchange instead of FOB value of exports.

RE. CORRIGENDUM TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ACTION TAKEN ON THE FINAL REPORT OF THE JAIN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have got a request from the hon. Member, Shri Md. Salim. He wants to raise a question with regard to Item No. 1(II) in today's List of Business. Mr. Salim, under what rule do you want to raise this question?

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Sir, according to the rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in the council of States, the Minister has every right to issue a correction in respect of any paper that has already been laid on the Table of the House. But the rule does not permit the premature publication of any document. Once a paper is laid on the Table of the House, it becomes the property of the House. Now, according to the Memorandum of Action Taken on the final Report of the Jain Commission of Inquiry... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not putting that question. What I am asking from you is: If you want to raise any question with respect to Item No. 1(II) in today's List of Business, under what rule of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in the council of States do you want to raise it?

SHRI MD. SALIM: Sir, it is a question of procedure. I can refer to the specific rule, I am referring to the practice that the Minister cannot prematurely publicise any document by holding a Press conference outside the House, and then subsequently, come and lay the same on the Table of the House. Originally, this document had already been laid on the Table of the House. The Minister can make a correction. But he cannot come to the House and lay the same document on the Table of the House after making an announcement in the public. this is what has been laid down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I would refer to the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in the Council of States. Rule 212.O says: "A member wishing to raise any of the matters referred to in rule 212.H shall communicate it to the Committee and not raise it in the Council." so, if it is to be referred, it shall be communicated to the Committee and not raise in the Council. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, this is what is provided in the rule.